

A Card of Thanks

During the last two weeks we have received so many letters of a personal character that we find it impossible to reply to all of them. Our friends will please accept our thanks for these expressions of friendship and good will, and especially for the good wishes that accompany these letters. We appreciate these tokens of kindness and pray that the Lord may make us worthy of such a host of earnest supporters. If your letter remains unanswered do not attribute it to any lack of appreciation. Having been in the field visiting among the churches for ten or twelve days, work has accumulated, and tho always busy, we are exceptionally so just at this time. Again we thank our many friends for the sweet and blessed words of encouragement that have come to us thru their letters. The Lord bless and prosper you all, and may he so guide us in our labors that under his divine government all things may conspire to his honor and glory and to the ultimate good of all mankind.

Up-to-Date

A New York suburban preacher has employed a unique co-worker in the shape of a phonograph which he proposes to turn loose on his congregation. During the leisure hours of the week he will talk into the machine, and when Sunday comes an assistant will empty its contents upon the people. This mechanical evangelist is also to conduct a revival. Its possibilities are multifarious, but there is a question whether its appeal will be more to the conscience than to the curiosity of the hearers. Mechanical evangelists are not unusual in the experience of the church, and for this reason the phonograph may not be regarded as an innovation so much as a variation. Lips of iron may articulate the truth, but the earnest spirit, the loving heart, the human sympathy must be behind it to make it "truth with power."

Kindness to Animals

"The righteous man regardeth the life of his beast," said the old prophet, a sentiment which was doubtless inspired by the spectacle of cruelty to animals which even in this civilized age is not by any means unusual. There seems to be a sort of license for brutality in the treatment of horses particularly, as they are overloaded, beaten, kicked, frequently half tended, half fed, and in a hundred ways made the victims of outrageous treatment. Laws for their protection are difficult of enforcement, and the only relief from the cruelty and tyranny to which they are often subjected is a public sentiment trained to detest and denounce the cruel owner or driver. Preachers are the moulders of public sentiment along moral lines, and they might occasionally take such a text

as the foregoing, or that beatitude which says: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. A man will act out his true character along those lines where there are the least restraints, and his treatment of helpless animals, over which he possesses autocratic powers, will indicate, perhaps with unusual accuracy, what kind of a man at heart he really is.

Dearth in Church News

The season of the year is at hand when the usual dearth in church news begins. The unfortunate thing about it is that this dearth should continue so long. As a rule the season opens with the base ball season and closes with it, tho surely base ball has nothing to do in determining the amount of church news. Why should there be any less church news now than during the winter months? Does activity in church life cease when the warm weather comes? Why should the ministry and the laity relax their energy when the first signs of summer appear? During the winter months some churches freeze out, and during the summer months others seem to "burn" out. But we incline to the opinion that there is not as much dearth in church news as one is led to believe by reading the EVANGELIST. *It is not reported.* The idea is entirely too prevalent among our people that there is no news to report unless there have been accessions to the church. This is a mistake. Perceptible growth in the divine life; progress in church life; advancement along the several lines of church work; new and successful methods introduced into the Sunday school or young people's society, these are matters of news no less than the growth of the church by accretion. That is not the only growth worth reporting which adds numbers to your church. When the church is strengthened by the development of the divine life in its individual members there is as much cause for rejoicing and congratulation as when its force is increased by the addition of numbers. Accessions to the church do not always mean additional force or spiritual power to that church. It may mean weakness, for every member added to the church will be, either a weight or a wing to the pastor and his working force, and our own experience has taught us that too often it is the former. Unless every addition to the church in the way of numbers, adds, at the same time to its spiritual power and usefulness, there is no special cause for rejoicing over such growth.

Pastors need not wait with their reports until there have been accessions to the church in the way of numbers. What is your Sunday school doing? And what your Young People's Society? Have you a Sisters' Society? Is it idle? The brotherhood will

be as much interested to know that you are making progress along these several lines of church work, and that these organizations are being strengthened as to hear that your church has been growing by accretion. Let the brotherhood hear from you. See to it that at least once a month a report of your work appears in the paper. Send us a paragraph of your last sermon, something that seemed to be especially helpful to your people. It will help others also. Do not keep all these good things at home. You are missionary in spirit, are you not? Whatever is helpful to you and your people is likely to be helpful to the brotherhood also. The best talent in the church should be represented in the EVANGELIST. Do not compel us to fill the paper with reprint. This we must do unless you supply us with good, readable original matter.

More Trusts

A five million dollar combination has acquired control of 93 per cent of the oyster beds, including what are known as the seed beds from which the regular dredging grounds are replenished, so that lovers of the famous bi-valve will have to contribute their mite to the extra profits of the monopoly. The situation is certainly becoming importantly interesting. During the last twelve months there have been more combinations of enormous capital in restraint of trade and competition than in the previous fifty years. All these immense deals are meant for profit, of course, and in this connection we should remember another fact. The fabulous capitalization of these trusts does not by any means imply that much actual money invested. The element of water in all of them is very large, for since the trusts will be able to crush competition and absolutely control prices, it is of course confidently calculated that this watered stock, this fictitious stock, will be made to pay dividends. In other words consumers will be compelled to pay a price for all the necessities of life which will make a big profit not simply on the money actually engaged in the production of these necessities, but also upon the fictitious money represented by the capitalization of the trust. No such problem as this ever before confronted the nation. There was once a serious question of four million slaves, but this is a question of seventy millions.

The God of All Comfort

Blessed is the man who knows how to find the consolation that is in God. Perhaps a long experience with the world and with himself has been needed to bring him to this sublime refuge, to find this hidden way into the heart of God, to know how to nestle beneath the everlasting wings. The consolation of the world had to be tried first. Youth reveled in its roseate dream of life. Wealth,